

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1953

G. L. BROCKLEHURST, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Principal Medical Officer, Area No. 2, K.C.C.

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HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor T. S. Pettman, J.P.

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Committees concerned with matters of Public Health.

Public Health and Housing Committee

(Public Health Committee and Housing Committee
amalgamated in 1953.)

Highways Committee

(Responsible for public cleansing, refuse disposal
and sewage disposal.)

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Members of Public Health and Housing Committee:

Councillor R. B. Gilchrist (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. G. E. Fortune (Vice-Chairman)
The Chairman of the Council
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Macgeorge
Councillor W. P. Barry
Councillor F. W. Gates
Councillor A. C. Coleman
Councillor R. W. Floyd
Councillor W. H. Rogers
Councillor C. J. Sandercock
Councillor R. V. Sidnell

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF - 1953.

Medical Officer of Health: G. L. BROCKLEHURST, M.D.,
and M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Principal Medical Officer,
Area No. 2, K.C.C.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: C. J. Clark, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
 Inspector's Examination Joint Board;
 Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
 Institute;
 Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
 Institute.

Duties: Statutory duties of a Sanitary Inspector;
 Housing Management duties;
 Shops Acts Inspector.

Additional Sanitary

Inspector: N. J. Howard, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
 F.R.Met.S.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
 Inspector's Examination Joint Board;
 Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
 Institute.

Duties: Statutory duties of a Sanitary Inspector;
 Shops Acts Inspector;
 Meteorological Observer.

Clerical Staff:

Clerk to the Medical)	Mrs. A. D. Moon.
Officer of Health		

Clerks in the Sanitary	)	Mrs. A. D. Moon.
Inspectors' Offices:		
	)	Miss V. E. Steele.

General Assistant in the)	E. F. Jempson.
Sanitary Inspectors'		
Offices:		

4.

Council Offices,
Herne Bay.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eleventh Annual Report on the health of Herne Bay for the year 1953, with which is included the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The vital statistics of the Urban District show an increase in the Birth Rate from 13.0 to 17.52. The Death Rate of infants under one year remains about the same, being 20.49 compared with 20.40 for the year 1952. Once again, no maternal deaths were recorded.

There was also a decrease in the Death Rate from 10.30 to 9.41

As usual, Measles and Chicken Pox accounted for the majority of cases of infectious diseases and, apart from these, there were no major outbreaks of infectious disease.

The Health Services provided in the town through the National Health Service Act are set out in the Report in some detail; they are available to all the inhabitants and they are adequate.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has reviewed the section dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area.

There are many items in the Report which do not call for comment, and it can be said that the health of the town has been satisfactory.

I thank the Members of the Health and Housing Committee for their continued interest and support shown in the matters under their jurisdiction, the Chiefs of the other Departments for their co-operation and, lastly, the members of the staff of the Health Department for their keenness and interest in their work.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. L. BROCKLEHURST.

Medical Officer of Health
and
Principal Medical Officer,
Area No. 2, K.C.C.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICTSTATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (including inland water) - 8,566 acres	8,889 acres
{Tidal Water - 323 " }	
Population, 1953 (Registrar-General) ...	17,680
Rateable Value (1st April, 1953) ...	£191,406: 0: 0
Estimated sum represented by 1d. rate ...	£780: 0: 0

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.		Herne Bay U.D.	England & Wales
Live Births ..	244	114	130	Birth Rate	13.80	15.5
Legitimate ..	223	103	120	per 1,000		
Illegitimate .	21	11	10	estimated		
				population		
				mid-1953		
				*Adjusted		
				Birth Rate	17.52	
Stillbirths ...	7	6	1	Rate per	27.88	22.4
				1,000 total		
				(live and		
				still)		
				Births		
Deaths ...	292	126	166	Death Rate	16.51	11.4
				per 1,000		
				estimated		
				population		
				mid-1953		
				*Adjusted	9.41	
				Death Rate		

* The above figures shown as "adjusted Birth Rate" and adjusted Death Rate are corrected by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

	<u>Herne Bay U.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes - Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion ...	Nil	Not avail- able.
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-		
All infants per 1,000 live births	20.49	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legi- timate live births ...	31.39	Not avail- able.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil	
Neo-natal (infants under 4 weeks) per 1,000 live births ...	8.19	

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u> Causes of Death:	Number of Deaths:	
	Neo-Natal: Infants under 4 weeks.	Infants from 4 weeks to 1 year.
Multiple Congenital Deformities	-	1
Prematurity ...	2	-
Asphyxia ...	-	2
Unknown ...	-	2
TOTAL INFANT DEATHS	2	5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1953.

A L L C A U S E S			Males	Females
			126	166
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	-	1
8.	Measles	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	5	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	8	15
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	1	3
16.	Diabetes	...	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	16	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	24	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	2	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	25	38
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	5	3
22.	Influenza	...	2	4
23.	Pneumonia	...	1	13
24.	Bronchitis	...	9	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	6	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	9	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	-	6
35.	Suicide	...	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-

Number of Deaths and different age groups during each month.

Age .	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Age Group Total
Under 1 year	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	7
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
30 - 40	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
40 - 50	2	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	8
50 - 60	3	-	-	1	3	-	2	4	1	2	-	1	17
60 - 70	4	5	3	5	6	1	3	2	1	1	3	10	44
70 - 80	21	20	8	8	10	7	4	3	6	8	6	9	110
80 - 90	10	14	8	7	8	9	6	6	7	5	3	6	89
90 - 100	1	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	12
TOTALS	43	40	23	22	30	20	17	18	18	17	16	28	292

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Herne Bay is a seaside holiday resort on the northern coast of Kent, at the mouth of the Thames Estuary. Bounded on the north side by the North Sea, it is almost surrounded by the rural villages of the Bridge-Blean Rural District; from the east and west it lies between the Whitstable Urban District and Birchington in the Borough of Margate, and the south side of the town is approximately eight miles from the City of Canterbury.

The town is essentially a holiday resort, and a large percentage of the population is engaged in catering for the needs of the visitors who take holidays there during the summer months, when the population figure is almost double that of the winter period.

There is a large residential area in the Urban District, and as the town is within easy reach of London, many of the inhabitants travel each day to their employment in the City.

In addition to the town's Education and Utility Services - (Schools, Electricity, Gas, Water, Fire, Transport, Local Government and Postal Services), there are a number of Professional and Commercial Establishments and Light Industrial Undertakings which provide employment for a good percentage of workers; and agricultural employment is provided in the rural area.

The Kent County Council is the Education Authority for the Urban District, and there are five County Primary Schools and one County Modern School under this Authority. There are also a number of Boarding and Day Schools and Convalescent and Children's Homes, as well as Residential and Day Nurseries; Holiday Homes and Home for old people and the chronic sick; also Cripplecraft Home for disabled people; Herne Bay Hospital and Herne Hospital at Herne Common, where a number of nursing and domestic workers are employed.

Meteorology.

The Council maintain a Meteorological Station on the sea front, and daily weather readings are transmitted to the Air Ministry. The following are the readings for the year 1953:-

Period.	Sunshine Hours:	Rainfall Inches:
1953 ..	1629.9	17.36
Daily average ..	4.46	.005

The average difference between day and night temperatures during the year was 11.1 degrees.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA
AS PROVIDED BY THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Laboratory Facilities.

All pathological and bacteriological work for the Urban District is carried out at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, free of charge.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Kent County Council is the responsible authority for the provision of an Ambulance Service throughout the County.

The Whitstable Station at Horsebridge, Whitstable covers the Herne Bay area. The nearest neighbouring Stations (according to the location of requirement) are Canterbury, Faversham and Broadstairs.

The following statistics supplied by the County Medical Officer give particulars of the patients carried, lengths of journeys, etc. from the Whitstable Station. These figures include Whitstable, Herne Bay and the surrounding areas.

Ambulance Service.

Emergencies	...	...	...	...	...	...	719
Sitting Patients:-							
(1) Patients	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,628
(2) Journeys	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,989 x
(3) Mileage	...	...	...	...	...	...	146,828 x
(4) Average Miles per patient...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.60
(5) Stretcher patients carried with sitting patients	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,404 ø

Stretcher Patients:-

(6) Patients	...	...	...	...	6,768
(7) Journeys	...	...	...	...	1,570 -
(8) Mileage	...	...	...	...	30,163 -
(9) Average miles per patient	..	...			12.76

Totals.

Patients	...	...	...	...	24,396
Journeys	...	...	...	...	4,559 -
Mileage	...	...	...	...	176,991
Average miles per patient	..	...			7.25

Hospital Car Service (Herne Bay and Whitstable).

Patients	...	...	...	...	163
Journeys	...	...	...	...	81
Mileage	...	...	...	...	5,166
Average Miles per patient	..	...			31.69

(Ø) These patients are included in the figure under Item (6).

(x) Includes journeys where stretcher and sitting patients were carried in the same vehicle (total number of patients carried on these journeys is, therefore, Item (1) plus Item (5)).

(-) Journeys and mileage where stretcher patients only were carried (number of patients carried on these journeys is, therefore, Item (6) less Item (5)).

Nursing in the Home.

The Kent County Council provide a free Home Nursing Service, and apart from cases of emergency and accident, a patient may obtain the services of a Home Nurse if requested by the medical practitioner in attendance. The Home Nurses appointed to serve in the Urban District are:-

Mrs. D. M. Thompson, Mrs. C. Swinford,
Miss P. Cleaver and Miss V. F. Ray.

Domestic Help Service.

Domestic Help is obtainable for the sick and aged and infirm, and in cases of urgent need; the scheme is operated from the Kent County Council's Clinic in King's Road, under the supervision of the Area Organizer, Mrs. A. Kingston.

Health Visitors, School Nurse and
Infant Life Protection Officer.

The Health Visiting, School Nursing and Infant Life Protection Services are carried out by the County Council, who provide two nurses. During 1953, Miss M. J. Foulas and Miss H. P. L. Acton shared these duties until May, when Miss Foulds left the district. Miss Acton remained in charge until the end of the year pending the appointment of a successor to Miss Foulds.

The Tuberculosis Health Visiting is carried out by Miss M. Brangan.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Clinics continued to be held regularly throughout the year at the Kent County Council's Health Centre in King's Road, Herne Bay (Tuberculosis Dispensary in Cavendish Road); and the following table gives the days and times when the various sessions were held.

Clinics	Sessions	
	Days	Times
<u>Maternity Clinics:</u> Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.	✕ Friday	 9.30 a.m.
<u>Women's Welfare Clinic:</u> The Health Centre, King's Road.	✕ 1st and 3rd Thursday	 Mornings
<u>Child Welfare Clinic:</u> The Health Centre, King's Road. Methodist Hall, Canterbury Road, Herne.	Thursday and Monday 2nd and 4th Wednesday	Afternoons Afternoons
<u>Dental Clinic:</u> The Health Centre, King's Road.	Every Tuesday Wednesday and Saturday	Afternoons (Mornings and Afternoons Mornings

✕ These clinics were cancelled during 1953 owing to poor attendance and have not yet recommenced.

School Health Service.

Medical and dental treatment is provided by the County Council as follows:-

Minor Ailments Clinics.	Days and Attendance of Medical Officer.
The Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay.	Mondays and Wednesdays of each week, and 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings in each month.
The Masonic Hall, Whitstable.	Every Saturday morning.

Specialist School Clinics.

Attendance at these County Council Clinics is by appointment only, application for treatment being made to the County Medical Officer:

Clinics.	Address of Centres.
Child Guidance	51, London Road, Canterbury.
Ophthalmic	The Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay; and Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
Orthopaedic	Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
Speech Defects	County Clinic, 94, Whitstable Road, Canterbury.

Clinic Services provided through the Hospital Service:

The following Clinics are administered by the Hospital Management Committee of the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinics.	Sessions	
	Days	Times
<u>Tuberculosis Dispensaries:</u>		
K.C.C. Chest Clinic, Cavendish Road, Herne Bay.	Tuesday	10. 0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Herne Bay Refills ..	Tuesday	1.45 p.m.
<u>Venereal Diseases Clinic:</u>	(Women) Tuesday Friday	2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.	(Men) Tuesday Friday	5. 0 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Hospitals.

The Hospitals serving the Urban District are operated by the Local Hospital Management Committee, which is under the control of the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals serving the Urban District are:-

Isolation Hospital:

Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

General Hospitals:

Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.

Herne Bay Memorial Hospital.

Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital.

Herne Hospital.

Nunnery Fields Hospital, Canterbury (for old people).

The following two Children's Convalescent Homes are also administered by the Hospital Management Committee:-

St. Anne's Convalescent Home for Children; and
The Crole Wyndham Convalescent Home for Children.

Smallpox Hospital Accommodation.

The Regional Hospital Board have a scheme in operation whereby smallpox patients may be admitted to The River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent. No cases were notified during 1953.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

Sections 187 to 194, Public Health Act, 1936.

No new Nursing Homes were registered during the year but one ceased to exist. The following table gives particulars of the number of beds, etc. available at the end of December, 1953.

Year 1953	No. of Homes	No. of beds provided for:-		Totals
		Maternity	Others	
Homes first registered during year	-	-	-	-
Homes on register at end of year	1	-	15	15

Inspections of the Homes were carried out at regular intervals during the year.

Convalescent Homes, Holiday Homes, etc.

There are 6 Convalescent Homes in the Urban District with accommodation for some 380 patients (150 children and 230 adults).

There are also 5 Holiday Homes, accommodating approximately 210 women and children.

"Batesholme", Grand Drive, which comes under the control of the Kent County Council, accommodates 20 unwanted children.

There are now 3 Residential and Day Nurseries in the Urban District, accommodating approximately 90 children.

At "Cripplecraft", Strode Park, Herne there is accommodation for a large number of disabled persons, many of whom are engaged in making toys, etc.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Sections 47 and 50.

Action was taken during the year by the Urban District Council under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 in one instance when an old lady needing care and attention was removed by Court Order to Herne Hospital.

One person was buried by the Council under Section 50 of the Act.

Public Mortuary.

The Council own an up-to-date public Mortuary, comprising a post-mortem room with refrigeration facilities for four bodies; a panelled chapel and viewing room, which has independent access. Mr. E. F. Jempson, of the Health Department, acts as Mortuary Superintendent, and keeps all records of bodies admitted and of post mortem examinations. He also maintains an attractive garden at the mortuary entrance.

During the year, 47 bodies were admitted and post mortem examinations were held there.

Schools.

There are 5 Boarding Schools and one Day School in the Urban District, with accommodation for some 130 boarders and 640 day pupils. In addition to these are 5 County Primary and Junior Schools and one County Modern School, attended by approximately 1,700 children.

For many years the Herne Bay Council has pressed for new schools to be provided by the Kent Education Committee. In 1952, the new Hampton County Junior and Infants School was opened and, by the end of 1953, construction of the new County Modern School at Greenhill was well advanced.

Both of these schools are urgently needed as the child population has increased considerably since the war. The Council has built most of its houses in the districts where the new schools are situated.

Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities at the new schools are all that might be expected at new schools. At King's Road, the present arrangements for sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are not satisfactory, but are to be considerably improved as part of a major reconstruction scheme after completion of the new County Modern School.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

The following is a summary of the incidence of infectious diseases during the year, with an analysis of cases under age groups:-

D I S E A S E S		Total cases noti- fied	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	45	43	-
Whooping Cough	...	13	1	-
Measles	...	225	2	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	1	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	4	2	1
Dysentery	...	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	...	8	-	-
Erysipelas	...	1	-	-
Chickenpox	...	95	12	-
T O T A L S	...	393	61	2

It will be noted that the number of cases of infectious disease showed only a slight decrease upon the previous year, 393 as against 413. The number of Measles cases was a great deal higher and the number of Chickenpox cases considerably less than in 1952. Scarlet Fever cases increased by 10.

Of the 393 cases of infectious disease, 361 occurred in 293 private families, 24 in two Children's Convalescent Homes and 8 in a Nursery Home. Cases occurring in the Homes may be divided up as follows:-

Scarlet Fever: 16 in one Convalescent Home.

Measles: 7 in one Nursery Home.

Chickenpox: 8 in two Convalescent Homes.

Dysentery: 1 in one Nursery Home.

Scarlet Fever: 14 occurred in the first quarter of the year, 11 in the second, 16 in the third and 4 in the last quarter. 43 of the patients were removed to Isolation Hospital and 2 were isolated and nursed at home. 29 of the cases occurred in 28 families affecting 9 children under school age and 20 school children. The 16 patients in the Convalescent Home were of school age.

Whooping Cough: Of the 13 cases of Whooping Cough, 12 occurred in 8 families, 5 children under school age and 7 school children being involved.

Measles: There was a further increase in the number of cases of Measles during 1953, the number being 225 as against 126 in 1952. 195 notifications were received during the first quarter, 29 in the second quarter, one in the third quarter and none in the last three months of the year. 218 of the cases occurred in 178 families and 7 in a Nursery Home, and affected 103 children under school age, 117 school children and 5 adults. The following table shows the incidence of Measles for the last 5 years:-

Year and Quarter	Children 1 - 5 Years	Children 5 - 15 Years	Adults	TOTALS
1949: March Quarter	3	-	-	
June "	10	11	-	
Sept. "	1	5	-	
Dec. "	-	-	-	
<u>TOTALS for 1949:</u>	14	16	-	30
1950: March Quarter	76	181	6	
June "	156	134	12	
Sept. "	3	1	1	
Dec. "	3	3	-	
<u>TOTALS for 1950:</u>	238	319	19	576
1951: March Quarter	7	6	2	
June "	9	1	-	
Sept. "	1	2	-	
Dec. "	1	-	-	
<u>TOTALS for 1951:</u>	18	9	2	29

Year and Quarter	Children 1 - 5 Years	Children 5 - 15 Years	Adults	TOTALS
1952: March Quarter	2	2	1	
June "	5	3	1	
Sept. "	13	3	1	
Dec. "	32	72	-	
<u>TOTALS for 1952:</u>	52	80	3	135
1953: March Quarter	83	107	5	
June "	19	10	-	
Sept. "	1	-	-	
Dec. "	-	-	-	
<u>TOTALS for 1953:</u>	103	117	5	225

Acute Poliomyelitis: The first case occurred in April, a boy aged 11 years (paralytic); the second case was a boy aged 2 years, and the third case was the child's father - both were paralytic and occurred in June; the fourth case occurred in August, a girl aged 3 years (paralytic), who died. The first and last cases were treated at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, but the baby boy and his father were nursed at home.

Erysipelas: One case of Erysipelas occurred - a man aged 32, who was treated at home.

Influenzal Pneumonia: There was one case of Influenzal Pneumonia - a woman aged 72, who died.

Dysentery: The only case of Dysentery affected a girl aged 9 months, an inmate of St. Brelade's Nursery Home. The child was treated at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Chickenpox: During the year under review, 87 cases of Chickenpox were notified in 72 families, and 8 in two Children's Homes, affecting 24 children under school age, 66 school children and 5 adults. The following table shows the incidence of Chickenpox during the past 5 years:

Year and Quarter	Children 1 - 5 Years	Children 5 - 15 Years	Adults	TOTALS
1949: March Quarter	18	44	9	
June "	2	9	1	
Sept. "	3	17	-	
Dec. "	-	2	-	
<u>TOTALS for 1949:</u>	23	72	10	105
1950: March Quarter	2	7	-	
June "	1	5	1	
Sept. "	1	3	-	
Dec. "	2	6	1	
<u>TOTALS for 1950:</u>	6	21	2	29
1951: March Quarter	5	18	2	
June "	7	50	1	
Sept. "	-	23	2	
Dec. "	4	20	4	
<u>TOTALS for 1951:</u>	16	111	9	136
1952: March Quarter	20	73	9	
June "	13	24	1	
Sept. "	9	16	3	
Dec. "	14	35	4	
<u>TOTALS for 1952:</u>	56	148	17	221
1953: March Quarter	4	20	1	
June "	16	36	2	
Sept. "	3	7	-	
Dec. "	1	3	2	
<u>TOTALS for 1953:</u>	24	66	5	95

The following tables give the age incidence of the various notifiable infectious diseases which occurred during the year:

DISEASES	A G E I N C I D E N C E												
	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Adult but age unknown
Scarlet Fever	-	1	4	3	1	33	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	2	3	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	3	23	18	24	34	106	11	1	3	1	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Chickenpox	4	5	3	7	5	60	5	3	-	1	1	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	9	30	28	37	43	203	19	5	5	2	1	3	8

T U B E R C U L O S I S								
New Cases and Mortality during the Year 1953								
Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 ..	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 ..	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	4	3	-	-	1	1	-	-

Inward and Outward Transfers, Recoveries, etc.	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Inward transfers from other areas ...	4	3	-	1
Outward Transfers to other areas ...	1	-	-	1
Restored to Register on return to district ...	1	-	-	-
Reported to be "Recovered" ...	2	-	-	3

The numbers of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1953 were:-

Type of Case	Male	Female	TOTALS
Pulmonary Cases	71	62	133
Non-Pulmonary Cases	17	14	31
TOTALS ...	88	76	164

Prevention of Tuberculosis : Care and Aftercare.

A scheme is operated jointly by the Kent County Council and the Kent Council of Social Service for the provision of care and aftercare of patients suffering from tuberculosis. Through this scheme arrangements are made, where necessary, for assistance to be rendered in various ways, - the provision of shelters; extra milk and meat; the provision of beds, bedding and clothing.

Home visiting is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the area, who gives suitable advice to the patients.

Where there is need, help is given in solving housing problems and assisting with removal expenses; the admission of patients to Holiday Homes is arranged; in the case of unemployment, endeavours are made to find suitable posts for patients who are fit for work; and materials are provided for recreational therapy.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regs., 1925.
Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 172.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Rubella: 2 cases of Rubella were reported to have been admitted during the year to the Haine Isolation Hospital - from two private families.

Disinfection:

During the year the following disinfection was carried out:-

Houses disinfected	...	...	...	51
Mattresses and bedding disinfected	.			19
" " " destroyed	...			1

The Urban District Council own a plant which disinfects bedding by vapourising a chemical germicide in a sealed chamber.

Diphtheria Immunization and Vaccination.

The following are the particulars, supplied by the County Medical Officer, of Immunizations and Vaccinations carried out in the Urban District during 1953. -

Diphtheria Immunization.

The first table shows the number of children resident in the Urban District, in age groups, who were immunized against Diphtheria and the number of those receiving reinforcing inoculations; the second table shows the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1953 who had completed a course of immunization at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1939). -

Year of Birth		No. of Primary Inoculations	No. of Reinforcing Inoculations
1953	} Under Five Years of Age	10	-
1952		137	-
1951		18	-
1950		8	-
1949		9	18

Year of Birth	No. of Primary Inoculations	No. of Reinforcing Inoculations
1948)	6	124
1947)	7	29
1946)	7	4
1945) School	3	24
1944)	3	58
1943)	1	10
1942) Children	-	4
1941)	-	2
1940)	-	1
1939)	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u> number immunized during 1953	210	274

Year of Birth	Number of Children Immunized	
	Last complete course of injections, 1949 - 1953.	Last complete course of injections, 1948 or earlier.
1953)	10	-
1952) Under	143	-
1951) Five	166	-
1950) Years	181	-
1949) of Age	168	-
1948)	219	3
1947)	228	31
1946)	203	43
1945) School	165	68
1944)	181	19
1943)	163	7
1942) Children	99	87
1941)	118	57
1940)	60	114
1939)	112	23
<u>TOTAL</u> Number of children immunized at any time between 1st January, 1939 and 31st December, 1953	2,216	452

26.

Vaccination.

The return showing the number of persons who were vaccinated during the year gives the following numbers:-

Age at 31.12.53	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	TOTAL
Number Vaccinated	79	60	11	9	159
Number Re-vaccinated	-	5	7	24	36

Child Population.

The 1951 Census shows the child population of Herne Bay Urban District to be 3,552, and this figure is made up as follows:-

Age		M	F
0	...	115	105
1	...	109	114
2	...	147	117
3	...	133	132
4	...	145	172
5	...	138	130
6	...	138	135
7	...	133	147
8	...	128	130
9	...	109	100
10	...	89	96
11	...	102	104
12	...	96	99
13	...	110	91
14	...	98	90
TOTALS ...		1,790	1,762

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Herne Bay.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Councillors of
the Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to submit my report for the year 1953 in which the Public Health Committee and the Housing Committee were amalgamated to form a joint Public Health and Housing Committee.

1953 was a year overshadowed by the East Coast floods which affected Herne Bay more severely than any previous floods within living memory. My report concludes with some details of the effect of the floods and the measures taken to deal with them.

Housing matters have again commanded attention and, although steady progress has been made in reducing the waiting list, the total number of applicants in December, 1953 was 323. Many applicants have waited for several years and, with only 36 houses in prospect during 1953 and early 1954, the outlook for most of them is disheartening.

Some Members of the Council are reluctant to build many more houses for they fear the danger of providing more than may ultimately be needed. That is a consideration which must always be borne in mind, but the problem of the waiting list remains. The Government's decision to release houses from requisition has not helped matters, for 35 of the houses to be constructed in the present programme will have to be used to rehouse tenants at requisitioned premises.

Consideration has been given to the 15 sub-standard houses at the lower end of Beach Street. They have been flooded to a serious extent three times within fifteen years and residual dampness is a substantial factor which contributes to their unfitness. Many of the tenants have their names upon the Council's waiting list. When each house becomes vacant, it is proposed to consider its closure under the Housing Act, 1936 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. That Act permits of the closure of an unfit house instead of its demolition.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill, which has given rise to much controversy in Parliament, received a second reading in December, 1953. The Government has declared its intention, while continuing new building on a large scale, to stop the gradual deterioration of sound houses into slums, to restore the clearance and replacement of slum houses, and to stimulate the improvement and conversion of structurally sound houses which lack amenities or are too big for modern requirements. The Bill proposes to allow house owners to add a repairs increase to controlled rents of houses kept in good repair. A tenant asked to pay increased rent would be able to apply to a local authority for a certificate of disrepair if he considers that the house is not in good repair.

At the opening of Parliament after the summer recess reference was made in the Queen's speech to the Food and Drugs Amendment Bill, which was subsequently introduced in the House of Lords in November, 1953. In the same month, the Council resolved to adopt an amending byelaw which will prohibit the use of newsprint as wrapping in direct contact with unprotected foods except uncooked vegetables.

Milk, too, has received attention, for the Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk)(Amendment) Regulations, 1953 appoints 1st October, 1954 as the date from which it will be compulsory to use caps or covers overlapping the lips of containers of pasteurised milk. From the same date, milk will have to be bottled at the premises at which it is pasteurised. That is extremely important, for it will eliminate possibility of contamination which may occur when pasteurised milk is delivered in bulk from a pasteuriser's premises to a retail distributor's dairy for bottling.

In February, 1953 the new Ministry of Food Abattoir at Canterbury was first used, and since then home killed meat at Herne Bay has been derived from the Canterbury Abattoir instead of from the abattoir at Plumstead. Erected at a cost of approximately £100,000 it incorporates all the recent advances in abattoir construction upon the "line" system. It includes ample lairage and cold storage accommodation.

During 1953, the Minister of Food made it clear that the control and operation of slaughterhouses would not remain in the hands of his Ministry. An ultimate system of "moderate concentration" of slaughtering is envisaged by the Government and an Interdepartmental Committee has been appointed to prepare a plan recommending the localities in England and Wales where slaughterhouses, apart from those in bacon factories, should be sited. In the meantime, some private slaughterhouses will have to be brought back into use. The position at December, 1953 was uncertain so the four local slaughterhouses were licensed for four months only.

The local choice seems to rest between using the abattoir at Canterbury or permitting slaughtering at one or more local slaughterhouses after improvement to a satisfactory standard. Either of these alternatives may involve the Council in expense and, at the same time, it is uncertain whether local butchers will require their own slaughtering arrangements. It seems that most of them would prefer to buy home killed meat "off the hook" instead of buying live animals to be slaughtered. A satisfactory solution to the many difficulties will undoubtedly be worked out during 1954. What we all desire is the supply to the consumer of the best quality meat, in perfect condition, free from disease and at a reasonable price.

I conclude with an expression of grateful appreciation to the staff of the Public Health and Housing Department, particularly for the considerable amount of additional work they so willingly performed as a result of the flood. I also appreciate the assistance received from Chief Officers and the staff of other departments, and value the continued support and confidence of Members of the Council.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. J. CLARK.

Senior Sanitary Inspector
&
Housing Manager.

Water.

The public water supply provided by the Herne Bay Water-works Company is consistently pure, and frequent samples show that it is of excellent organic quality and bacteriological standard.

This supply is constant and abundant and is derived from a deep well at Ford. It is chlorinated before distribution. The water is exceedingly hard and is therefore not plumbo solvent. The Analyst has commented upon the increased and progressive salinity of the water supply. The salt can just be detected by a sensitive palate but is not noticed by those who are accustomed to drinking it regularly. It is not in any way harmful.

There remain, scattered about the rural area, 29 houses served by wells, springs and stored rainwater. This supply is of doubtful purity and is often insufficient during the summer months. All other houses in the Urban District are supplied with water from the public mains.

Examination of Water Samples.

Public Supply. - Samples of the public water supply were taken every month, and the following particulars are of the samples taken during 1953, with the results of examinations -

Bacteriological Examination:	)	12 samples taken	)	All satisfactory.
Chemical Examination:	)	12 samples taken	)	All satisfactory.

One of the samples was of untreated water and eleven had been chlorinated.

Other than Public Supply. - Twelve samples of untreated water were taken from private wells and rainwater storage tanks and sent to the County Laboratory for bacteriological and chemical examination; four proved to be satisfactory and eight unfit for drinking purposes unless previously boiled.

One well is temporarily closed following unsatisfactory bacteriological samples.

Number of Dwelling-houses supplied
from the Public Water Mains.

There are 6,813 houses in the Urban District, and all but 29 are supplied from the public water mains. Five dwellings receive a public water supply from outside standpipes.

Bullockstone, Braggs Lane, Herne Common and Hicks Forstal.

A scheme for the extension of mains to provide a public water supply to 40 properties in the above rural areas has been referred to in my previous annual reports. After much delay, the mains were laid in 1953 and by December of that year 33 of the properties had been connected to the new mains. No financial assistance was received from either the Government or the County Council.

Knaves Ash, Hoath.

The Bridge-Blean Rural District Council has recently extended the water main from Maypole to Rushbourne. The extended main passes within 260 yards of three cottages in the Urban District which are now supplied with water from a polluted shallow well. Negotiations are in progress with the Rural Council for the purpose of laying a water service to the three cottages.

Grays Farm and Cottages
and
Oare Farm and Cottages. -

The Bridge-Blean Rural District has also extended a water main at Marshside to within a short distance of these properties, which lack a satisfactory water supply. Arrangements are in hand for the laying of a water service to the properties from the new water main.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are now 146 properties which are not connected with the town's sewerage system. 104 of these are served by cesspools and 42 by pail closets. The cesspools are emptied by the Council, but occupiers are responsible for the disposal of the contents of pail closets.

There has been no alteration to the arrangements for final disposal of sewage. Sewage mainly from Beltinge, Herne and Broomfield areas passes to the Council's sewage disposal works at May Street, situated at the eastern part of the Urban District. Sewage from the remainder of the district passes by gravity, or is pumped, to a disintegrator station

at the East Cliff and thence to the sea.

The sewerage system has been extended at Greenhill, where the Council is developing a new housing estate. In addition to the new houses two existing houses, formerly drained to cesspools, are now connected to the new sewers.

At 40 occupied dwellings, choked drains were cleansed as a result of service of informal notices. At a further 27 properties drains were repaired or relaid by informal action.

Tests were carried out upon drainage systems at 9 houses at the request of owners, and upon payment of the Council's fees, which vary from one to three guineas per test.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Wantsun forms the south-eastern boundary of the district before it passes to the sea, and is free from pollution.

The watercourse about which complaints are made from time to time is at the western side of the town (Hampton Brook). It is polluted in various ways, and in dry summers it becomes stagnant. It would become a breeding place for insect pests if not frequently sprayed. Part of Hampton Brook was culverted in 1953.

Closet Accommodation.

The Council has an arrangement by which external urinals and water closets at six licensed premises are allowed to remain open beyond licensing hours for use by the public. The daily lighting and cleansing of the six licensed premises' conveniences is carried out by the Council.

The brewers have been asked to improve the conveniences at the Victoria Hotel.

Satisfactory provision for closet accommodation, urinals and washing facilities for employees was made at a local factory.

Public Conveniences.

The 13 public conveniences for men and women are under the control of the Health Department. Four for women and

three for men have turnstiles, and the remainder have independent coin locks upon entry doors.

St George's Conveniences for ladies were enlarged in 1952. It is intended to replace cage pattern turnstiles at the Parade and Tower Conveniences for ladies by a lower type which are less cumbersome and are easier to operate.

Wash and brush-up facilities are available at five women's conveniences and four of the men's. During 1953 a charge of 5d. was made for this service, which provides hot water, soap and a clean linen towel.

There are slipper baths at two of the conveniences, one for men and one for women. During the summer months, the baths and wash and brush-up facilities are used by approximately 1,200 persons each week.

A new arrangement was made for coin collection which has resulted in a saving of approximately £2 a week from October to May.

Consideration has again been given to the provision of public conveniences at parts of the town at present without them. It is intended to construct conveniences for both sexes at the William Street Car Park to serve the shopping area and car park. It was decided to abandon the intention to construct a ladies' convenience at North Street near Woolworth's.

Consideration has been given to the construction of conveniences at Beltinge and Horne, and possible sites have been inspected.

Public Cleansing.

This service is administered by the Council's Surveyor. Domestic refuse is collected weekly from dwelling-houses and conveyed by modern covered moving-floor vehicles to the Refuse Tip at Broomfield. Following a local enquiry conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in October, 1952, the Tip is to be enlarged by 40 acres.

Controlled tipping is to be carried out at an additional annual cost of £1,500. Marketable products are removed, and the remainder of the refuse is tipped in layers and covered at the end of each day.

The collection of refuse from hotels, restaurants and some trade premises is carried out more frequently than once a week.

The Surveyor's men engaged upon refuse collection notify the Health Department of any defective or unsatisfactory dustbins, or of houses without dustbins. Notices are then served upon owners or occupiers to provide satisfactory bins of the type prescribed by the Byelaws.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of visits of all kinds made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year	6,911
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Total number of interviews at the office with property owners, housing applicants, tenants, traders and others	1,814
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Number of Notices served - Statutory	..	6
Informal	..	417

Number of defects remedied	489
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SUMMARY OF VISITS - INSPECTIONS, etc.

Housing, Drainage and Nuisances:

Inspections and revisits for repairs and cleanliness	265
To remedy nuisances, disinfestation and cleansing	...	...	...	...	121
To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply, drainage and closet accommodation					237

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection:

Visits made re Infectious Diseases	...	...	96
Houses disinfected	...	...	51
Mattresses and bedding disinfected or destroyed			20

Food Premises:

Inspections of Bakehouses and Confectionery Shops	25
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

SUMMARY OF VISITS - INSPECTIONS, etc.
(cont'd)

Food Premises (cont'd):

Inspections of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	27
" " Dairies	...	...	...	79
" " Farms	...	...	...	5
" " Fish Shops (Wet and Fried)	...	...	...	36
" " Groccery, Greengrocery and Fruiters	...	...	...	63
" " Hotels and Restaurants	...	...	...	51
" " Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	65
" " Other Food Premises	...	...	...	7

Factories, Shops and Cinemas:

Factories	89
Shops (health and comfort of shop-workers)	...	...	...	...	17
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	Nil

Miscellaneous Inspections and Visits:

Accumulations, Nuisances and the keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	144
Ditches and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	29
Public Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	77
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	914
Rat and Mice Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	1,201
Abatement of Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	12
Camping Sites and Gipsy Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	223
Provision of satisfactory Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	187
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	169
Other Public Health purposes	...	...	...	...	...	85
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2

Number of Inspections made upon receipt of complaints	414
Routine Visits and Inspections (not complaints)	1,914
Revisits to ensure compliance with requirements	1,781
Number of Inspections to investigate living conditions of Housing Applicants	576
Visits in connection with flood damaged properties (drying, cleansing, repairing)	2,227
Interviews in connection with flood damaged properties	498

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Drainage and Sanitation:

Cesspools abolished and premises connected to sewer	2
Drains tested	9
Surface water drainage provided to prevent flooding	2
Drains and private sewers re-laid or repaired ...	27
Choked drains cleared on one or more occasions ..	40
Inspection chambers constructed or repaired ...	10
Water closets constructed or fittings repaired or renewed	10
Defective and worn sinks and wastepipes replaced	14
Soil pipes/vent pipes renewed or repaired ...	9

Dampness remedied:

Roofs, gutters and downspouts repaired	39
Dampness remedied by insertion of damp-courses rendering, etc	31

General Defects remedied:

Floors repaired, ventilation improved and dry-rot eradicated	22
Walls underpinned, re-bonded, re-built	12
Brickwork and chimney stacks repaired	2
Window frames, sashcords, etc. repaired or renewed	140
Doors repaired or renewed	6
Stoves, firegrates and wash-coppers repaired or renewed	11
Stair-treads and bannister rails renewed ...	2
Foodstores provided or ventilated	2
Other defects remedied	8
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	80
External wood and ironwork repainted	4

Miscellaneous Defects or other matters dealt with:

Walls and ceilings of rooms cleansed	18
Dustbins provided by owners or occupiers after Informal Notice	88
Dirty conditions remedied or improved	1
Overcrowding abated	3
Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities at Factories provided or improved	4
Accumulations removed	19
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Animal nuisances abated	2
Hot water systems installed/repaired	3

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED
(cont'd)

Disinfestation:

Houses disinfested of fleas and bugs	...	...	11
Verminous bedding destroyed	..	...	1
Treatment applied for destruction of other insect pests	...	...	31
Premises treated for destruction of rats or mice			127

Water Supply:

Drinking water service supplied direct from main			32
Polluted wells closed	..	...	1

Food Premises:

Yards repaired and drainage improved	...	...	2
Walls and ceilings cleansed	..	...	16
Other improvements (kitchen walls tiled - refrigerator provided)	..	...	2
New bakehouse oven installed	...	...	1
Bakehouse floor re-laid	...	...	1

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The following tables give the prescribed particulars which are required to be furnished by Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937 with respect to matters under Part I of that Act, which is administered by the District Council. (Part I - Section 1. - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors); Section 2. - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>PART I OF THE ACT</u>				
1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (made by Sanitary Inspectors)				
Premises	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities.	12	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i), in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	86	79	-	-
(iii) Other prem- ises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	98	89	-	-

* i.e.-- Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions, (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND					
Particulars	Numbers of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Ins- pector	By H.M. Ins- pector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	-	3	-
T O T A L	7	7	-	4	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT : OUTWORK - Nil.

Smoke Abatement.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power has a staff of fuel engineers who are prepared to visit local factories where they give excellent advice upon management of furnaces, boilers and all manner of factory appliances. Smoke prevention is fuel economy, and it is good business as well as a good health measure to reduce smoke emission to a minimum.

A fuel engineer of the Ministry has spent several days at both of the local laundries which has resulted in reduction of smoke emission. It is extremely difficult to cope with the problem at small factories, for smoke prevention is a matter of using suitable fuel with skilled stoking at regular, frequent intervals. The stoker at a small factory frequently has other duties to perform which prevent him from paying the attention he should to his stoking duties.

Shops and Offices.

17 visits were made to Shop Premises (re health and comfort of shop workers) under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950; some defects and deficiencies were noted and remedied by informal action.

No complaints were received concerning unsatisfactory offices, and no unsatisfactory conditions were observed during routine visits to premises with office accommodation.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites.

There are eleven licensed camping sites in the Urban District which accommodate approximately 850 caravans with an average of three persons per caravan at weekends and peak holiday periods. In addition, there are a number of tents especially at the London Boys' Camp, which is completely "under canvas".

The largest camp is conducted by the Council at Reculver. It is well provided with amenities and useful facilities. Water closets, ablution basins, showers and foot-baths, as well as sinks for clothes washing, are incorporated in two spacious brick buildings - one for each sex.

The occupation of all tents and caravans upon licensed sites is restricted to the period from 1st May to 31st October in each year.

Seven licensed sites have water closets with drainage systems discharging into the public sewers; at the remaining four sites, the drainage discharges into cesspools as no sewers are available.

All licensed sites are of a good type, as the Council insists upon high standards of sanitation, cleanliness and general good management. Frequent inspections are made throughout the summer months to ensure that the standard is maintained. At the Coastguard Camping Site, Swalecliffe, conveniences have been enlarged and the site improved.

Occupiers of camps have been asked to provide adequate artificial lighting, especially at camp conveniences.

The following licensed sites are in regular use during the summer months:-

Two Herne Bay Urban District Council Camps, Reculver
(west and south of Reculver Towers).
Burrell's Camping Site, Fairfax Drive.
Camp at Coastguard House, Swalecliffe.
Camp at "Waterways" Tea Gardens, Reculver.
Cliff Pavilion, Glenbervie Drive, Beltinge.
Cliff Top, Standard Avenue, Studd Hill Estate.
S. W. Farrow's Camp, Reculver.
Kendall's Camp, Beltinge.
London Boys' Camp, Hillborough.
Westbrook Camp, Sea Street.

During the year, approval was given to the siting of a caravan at Grove Farm, Bullockstone for a period of one year.

During the school holidays, numerous tented camps are set up by Youth Organizations, which are exempted from the licensing requirements of the Public Health Act. These camps are usually very well organized and conducted. They justify the confidence placed in the organizations by the exemption from licensing.

Abbotswood Estate, at the west end of the town, was sold as building plots many years ago but was not developed. It has been a favourite site for gipsy caravans, but since the removal of a gipsy colony early in 1951, none have returned. The Abbotswood Estate Association has erected a substantial fence along the roadside flanking the estate. Some of the plot owners make use of their sites for short period camping during summer holidays.

Swimming Pool.

There is one swimming pool in the town, at a private hotel; the water for this pool is drawn from a well which is polluted, but which is rendered harmless to bathers by chlorination.

Dirty Conditions.

Dirty conditions were dealt with at a house in 1947 and it became necessary to do so again in 1953. Admission to the premises was refused and a warrant had to be obtained. Notices were subsequently served under the Public Health Act,

1936 for the cleansing of the premises and the abatement of nuisances arising from the keeping of animals thereon. Filthy contents were taken away and destroyed upon the certificate of the Sanitary Inspector. The occupier, an elderly lady living alone, was in need of care and attention which she would not voluntarily receive. The Medical Officer of Health secured her removal by a Court Order under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

During the year, 6 houses were treated for destruction of bugs and 5 houses for destruction of fleas.

There seems to be some improvement in the general standard of cleanliness, and verminous houses are not encountered as frequently as in the past.

Before occupation of a house owned or controlled by the Council, the incoming tenant's furniture is examined for evidence of vermin.

Insect Pests.

31 applications were received and dealt with for the destruction of furniture beetles, flies, cockroaches, ants and wasps' nests. In addition, ponds were sprayed for the destruction of mosquitoes, etc.

Furniture beetle, commonly known as "woodworm", are still on the increase and advice is frequently sought upon their destruction.

Rodent Control.

A free service is provided by the Council to occupiers of dwelling-houses for the destruction of rats and mice. Half the cost of operating the service is recovered from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but a charge is made at business premises as these are not recognized by the Ministry for grant purposes.

During the year under review, 127 premises were treated for destruction of rats and mice.

Treatment was applied for rat destruction at:-

				<u>Degree of Infestation</u>	
				<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>
Private dwelling-houses	...			46	25
Business premises	...	...		1	5
Farms	...	...	...	1	4
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	-	7
Other Council properties	...			6	4

Treatment was applied for mice destruction at:-

Private dwelling-houses	...	20
Business premises	...	6
Council premises	...	2

A "major" infestation is where there are twelve or more rats. Less than that number is regarded as a "minor" infestation.

It was not necessary during the year to serve any statutory notices to secure destruction of rats at infested premises.

Accumulations were removed frequently throughout the year from undeveloped land as such accumulations, if allowed to remain, afford harbourage for rats and mice.

Rat Destruction in Sewers.

The sewers are treated regularly twice each year and, during 1953, the first treatment was applied in April. 10% of the manholes in 7 sewerage sections were then test-baited, and bait was taken from a few manholes in 2 sections only. The manholes were subsequently treated with poisoned bait. The second treatment was applied in October, when 52 manholes in the 2 sections found to be infested in May were again baited. The cost of both treatments was £91. 19. 8d., half of which is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Most of the sewerage system is found to be consistently free from rats; the exception is in the town area and at Studd Hill, where a few rats are usually to be found. There is evidence from time to time that these sewers become infested from the surface by way of defective drains.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act, which came into force on 1st November, 1951, is intended to secure the use of clean filling materials, for which purpose a local authority must -

- (a) Consider the granting, renewing or withholding of licences for premises relating to rag flock.
- (b) Carry out inspections of registered and licensed premises as often as may appear to be necessary.
- (c) Grant certificates of registration in respect of premises using filling materials to which the Act applies.
- (d) Take proceedings for offences under the Act.

Three premises in the Urban District are registered under the Act.

HOUSING1. - INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) (includes 368 flood damaged houses) | 472 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose (includes 1,268 inspections of flood damaged houses) | 1,429 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (1) above; which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | None |
| (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose | None |

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (includes 368 flood damaged houses) 465

2. - REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers (includes 368 flood damaged houses) 466

3. - ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (two served prior to 1953) ...	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses represented as unfit and not repairable at reasonable expense under Section 11 of the Act and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 (houses closed for human habitation)	5
(4) Number of unfit houses voluntarily demolished by owners ...	1
(5) Number of dwelling-houses subsequently made fit	Nil

Note:

The houses demolished were Rose Cottage, Black-sold Cottage and No. 1, North Street.

Those closed for human habitation were Church View and Nos. 2, 9, 11 and 15, Beach Street.

Two houses at the cliff edge at Beltinge and two at Studd Hill were abandoned as unsafe following the stern and heavy cliff fall resulting from the East Coast floods in January.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. - HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	20
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	27
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	103
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	19
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	1

19 overcrowded families were re-housed by the Council. There remained 20 known cases of overcrowding, which will be remedied as more houses are built.

Requisitioned Dwellings.

In April, 1952 the Minister of Housing and Local Government appointed a Working Party to report upon requisitioned properties. The Working Party issued an Interim Report in October of that year recommending the release by specified dates of all dwellings held on requisition. The Report was considered at a Special Meeting of the Housing Committee, when it was decided that 25% of all houses to be constructed would be used for transferring tenants to release requisitioned houses.

In December, 1953 the Second Interim Report was considered by the Housing Committee. It was then decided to re-house tenants of requisitioned houses and flats at 35 of the 71 houses to be constructed at Greenhill. That should make it possible to release all requisitioned properties by December, 1956 in accordance with the recommendation of the Second Interim Report.

During 1953, 12 tenants of requisitioned houses and flats were re-housed as follows:-

By the Council	5 tenants re-housed.
Without the Council's assistance ..	7 " "

At the end of 1953, there remained a balance of 46 families at requisitioned houses.

New Houses Erected and under Construction.

The number of new houses erected during the year and the number under construction on 31st December, 1953 was as follows:-

Houses erected by.	Number Erected:	Number under Construction:
The Local Authority ...	46	24
Other Bodies and Persons	72	72
TOTALS ...	118	96

Housing Accommodation owned by the Council.

The total number of houses owned by the Local Authority at 31st December, 1953 was 581. The number includes 161 pre-war three-bedroom houses and 13 miscellaneous pre-war properties. The balance includes 318 post-war houses, 40 post-war flats and 49 prefabricated bungalows. The 318 post-war houses are mainly of the three-bedroom type, but there are some with two bedrooms and a few with four bedrooms.

In December, 1953 there remained 12 uncompleted houses from a programme to construct 46 houses. Work had commenced upon the construction of a programme to erect 71 houses (32 with two bedrooms and 39 with three bedrooms).

Rents of Council houses (including rates) vary from 18/5d. per week for a pre-war three-bedroom house to 31/7d. per week for a three-bedroom post-war house. A differential rent scheme is to receive consideration.

Sub-letting at Council Houses.

The Council makes a charge of 5/- per week for permitted sub-letting at Council houses and 2/6d. per week in respect of lodgers where permitted.

The figure fluctuates slightly throughout the year, but there is an average of 10 sub-tenancies and 12 lodgers

which results in an additional income of approximately £200 a year. No consent is given where sub-letting or lodgers would cause overcrowding.

Installation of Electricity.

At the request of tenants some of the pre-war Council houses without electricity have had a supply installed upon payment of a rent increase of 1/- per week.

Poultry Keeping at Council Houses.

Regulations have been made for the control of poultry keeping at Council houses. The keeping of cockerels is prohibited and hens must not exceed six in number. Hen houses must be constructed according to a standard design.

The object of the regulations and standardised hen house is to ensure that poultry are not kept so as to become an unsightly nuisance, which so often happens when poultry keeping is uncontrolled.

Housing of Applicants and Transfer of Tenants.

During the year, 54 applicants whose names appeared on the Council's housing register were housed. 52 were housed by the Herne Bay Council, one by the Canterbury Council, and one as a nominated tenant at a privately-owned dwelling. 37 new tenants were housed at Greenhill, the remainder at existing houses, prefabs and requisitioned flats which had become vacant by termination of tenancies or transfer of tenants.

15 tenants of prefabs and requisitioned flats were transferred to accommodation more suitable to the needs of their growing or diminishing families. Some of the vacated requisitioned premises were released from requisition.

9 exchanges of tenancy were permitted, only 2 of which involved a local exchange of houses. The other 7 exchanges were with tenants of Council houses at Canterbury, Maidstone, Staines, Colchester, Rainham and Barmendsey.

6 tenants gave up the tenancies of Council houses and left the district.

2 families were housed by the Council because they were to be ejected by Order of the County Court.

During 1953 all applicants upon the housing register were visited and 181 found to be adequately housed or had left the district. The revised register at the end of the year contained the names of 323 applicants, all of whom had genuine housing need in varying degree. They can be grouped as follows:-

Applicants having 2 or more children	- 115	(10 non-resident)
" " 1 child ...	- 102	(6 " ")
Retired or middle-aged couples	- 28	
Young couples without children	- 53	(4 " ")
Single couples living alone ...	- 25	

(6 of the above were agricultural workers)

As already stated, at December 31st, 1953 there were 323 applicants upon the waiting list. Comparison with the waiting list at the same months in recent years gives the following interesting figures:-

December, 1952	- 512 applicants.
" , 1951	- 495 "
" , 1950	- 645 "
" , 1949	- 576 "

In 1951 there was a revised policy affecting the eligibility of non-resident applicants, which resulted in the removal of many names from the register.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

The number of dairies and distributors operating in the Urban District at the end of the year was as follows:-

Registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Distributors ...	10
Retail Dairies ...	10

Much of the milk sold at Herne Bay, particularly during the summer months, is derived from sources outside the town; most of it is pasteurised and arrives in the town already bottled.

All milk supplied for consumption by children at school is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested.

Examination of Samples.

The following samples of milk were collected and submitted to the County Laboratory for examination:-

Grade of Milk	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested ...	23	15	8
Accredited	3	3	-
Pasteurised:	44 {		
Methylene Blue Test		37	7
Phosphatase Test		41	3
Undesignated	2	-	2

Biological Tests for Tuberculosis.

6 samples were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, with negative results.

Cleanliness of Dairy Utensils.

During the year, utensils of various kinds were pathologically tested for cleanliness, and all were found to have been efficiently cleansed.

In my Annual Report for 1951, I remarked upon the changing practice of retail milk distributors. Very few of them now buy milk in bulk to bottle upon their own premises, but instead buy it already pasteurised and bottled upon the wholesaler's premises. There now remain four local dairies only at which milk is bottled, and at one of these bottling will shortly cease. At the four local dairies referred to bottling is done by machine at two and by hand at the other two dairies.

All local dairies are equipped with refrigerators, which helps to preserve the keeping quality of milk which cannot immediately be delivered to the consumers.

Annual Licences to retail Milk under Special Designations.

The following licences were granted to milk distributors during 1953:-

Type of Licence	Number
Dealer's Licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk	10
Dealer's Licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk	9
Dealer's Supplementary Licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk	1

Pasteurisation Plants.

There is a small pasteurising plant in the Urban District. It is licensed by the Kent County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority.

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat: Slaughtering has not taken place in the Urban District since 1939, except for an occasional pig or sheep slaughtered at an institution or by an owner for his own use.

Since the beginning of 1953, home killed meat for Herne Bay has been derived from animals slaughtered at a large Ministry of Food abattoir at Canterbury. For some years, home killed meat has been transported to Herne Bay from a Ministry of Food abattoir at Plumstead.

Carcases and organs of all animals are inspected after slaughter at the abattoirs, but occasionally deep seated bruising or other conditions are not detected at the abattoir and are dealt with by your own inspectors, both of whom are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods.

Unsound Food: The amount of food of all kinds condemned and surrendered during the year was 5 tons 6 cwt. 29 lbs.; this included 267 lbs. of carcase meat as well as vegetables, fish and a large quantity of tinned foods. (Of the above amount of condemned food, 4 tons 9 cwt. 84 lbs. was food damaged.)

Condemned food is disposed of by burial or by burning at the local gas works.

Food Hygiene.

Food traders continue to improve hygiene arrangements at their premises by installing additional sinks in kitchens.

Kitchens at several flood damaged restaurants and cafes along the sea front were considerably improved during the process of repair of flood damage.

Byelaws.

In 1950, the Council made Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

In November, 1953, it was resolved to amend the principal Byelaws to prohibit the wrapping of unprotected food (other than uncooked vegetables) in any newspapers, periodicals, magazines and comic papers, in such manner that it comes into direct contact with the food. (This amending Byelaw was confirmed by the Ministry of Food on the 14th January, 1954 and came into operation on the 22nd February, 1954.)

Ice-Cream.

At the end of 1953, a total of 109 premises was registered for the sale of ice-cream, and 2 to manufacture and sell ice-cream. One trader only manufactures ice-cream, and he uses the "hot-mix" method.

During the year, 7 new registrations were approved for the sale of wrapped ice-cream.

Examination of Samples.

30 samples were submitted for pathological examination during the year with the following results:

Number of Samples.	Classification in Grades.
22	Grade I
1	" II
4	" III
2	" IV
1 void	---

It will be noted that a high proportion of the samples reached the top grade and only 2 samples were classified Grade IV.

30 samples were also submitted for chemical examination and were shown to have an average fat content of 10.36, and an average total solids of 34.46,. That compositional quality is superior to the minimum standard which is now required by law. These results give confidence that good quality ice-cream is produced and sold to the public under satisfactory conditions of cleanliness.

Registered Food Premises.

In addition to the registered dairies and ice-cream premises already referred to, the following food premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

Premises for preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or pre-served food intended for sale	...	...	...	19
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	5

Food Premises not required to be registered.

The following food premises at Herne Bay are not required to be registered under any legal enactment:

Milk shops (not registered as dairies)	..	...	7
Cafes and restaurants	...	...	55
Grocery and provisions shops	...	...	52
Wet fish shops	..	...	4
Greengrocery, vegetables and fruit shops	...	...	31
Bakers and flour confectionery shops	...	...	17
Confectionery shops (sweets, chocolates, etc.)			27

Note.

During the year under review, 358 inspections were made of registered and unregistered food premises.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act came into operation upon the 1st day of April, 1952. It prohibits the keeping of a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by the Council.

In deciding whether to grant a licence the Council must have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided:

- (a) accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting and ventilation and cleanliness;
- (b) adequate supply of suitable food and drink;
- (c) that all reasonable precautions will be taken in case of fire and other emergency, and that animals will not be sold at too early an age.

Licences designed to secure compliance with the above, and other conditions, have been granted by the Council permitting the keeping of pet animals shops at four premises in the Urban District, viz:

157, High Street;
 11, Sea Street;
 144, Mortimer Street;
 19, East Street.

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The East Coast Floods.

This report would not be complete without reference to the disastrous East Coast floods which affected Herne Bay in common with other East Coast towns in Britain, and upon the West Coast of Holland.

The floods occurred during a severe storm on Saturday, 31st January and Sunday, 1st February. They caused widespread devastation at coastal towns, and the submerging of large areas of agricultural land. At Herne Bay, the flooding and storm damage was the most severe since 1897.

Unfortunately, flooding by the sea is not a new experience at Herne Bay, for it occurred in 1938 and again in 1949. The 1953 flood extended to parts of the town not reached by the two previous floods, which had affected the area between High Street and the Sea Front. The 1953 flood reached the gardens at the rear of houses in Soenser Road and submerged

a large area of the Memorial Park, including the bowling greens. At Reculver, the sea breached the defences and flowed in over the marshes. For several weeks the main line railway to Thanet was out of action.

In all, nearly 400 properties were under sea water, the depth of which varied from one foot at the fringe of the flooded area to seven feet at Beach Street. Many basement rooms were completely submerged to ceiling level. Fortunately, there was no direct loss of life, but the death of three flood victims within a few weeks of the flood may not have been unconnected with the shock of flood conditions.

Devastation upon the Sea Front could not be adequately described by any word picture of mine. There is, however, an excellent photographic record in a descriptive "Flood Souvenir" produced by the Herne Bay Press.

As is usual at such emergencies, the public response with measures of assistance and relief to flood victims was immediate. Food, clothes, rest centres, and many other forms of assistance were available almost as soon as the flooding occurred. Members of the W.V.S. and other voluntary organizations worked tirelessly and continuously.

When the flood water subsided there was the immense problem of dealing with the aftermath. Millions of gallons of sea water had to be pumped from flooded basements, and that was done by the local N.F.S. assisted by appliances and personnel from elsewhere. Whilst pumping was in progress, the Surveyor and his staff concentrated upon clearing up debris upon the Sea Front, and from streets which had been flooded.

The staff of the Public Health Department were, at the same time, engaged upon the cleansing of the interiors of flooded premises and with the inspection and condemnation of flood damaged food at several affected food premises. The cleansing work was carried out by 30 men recruited from the Labour Exchange and borrowed from the Surveyor. Organized in 15 squads they completed the cleansing of the interiors of houses in a period of 7 days. They were then used to clear silt and debris from back yards and passages, also to stack bricks from collapsed walls. Large accumulations of sodden bedding, furniture and furnishings were deposited daily upon the roadside and removed by lorries to the Council's refuse tip at Broomfield.

A flooded house presents a pitiful sight with its treasured contents reduced to a soggy mess, and the whole covered with a layer of unpleasant muddy silt. Some of the flood water was mixed with sewage, and that accounted for the stench at some of the flooded premises. A supply of disinfectant was delivered to each flooded property and, after the cleansing had been completed, each house was sprayed with disinfectant-deodorant.

Just as the cleansing was completed on the seventh day after the flood, three R.M.F. mobile heating units arrived. They did excellent work by passing hot air into the flooded houses. That helped to remove superficial dampness and warm up the premises to restore them to a habitable condition pending permanent repairs. This "drying-out" process was also aided by a free supply of 2 cwts. of coal delivered to each flooded property.

These cleansing measures were similar to those arranged after the floods of 1938 and 1949.

Comparison with the number of premises flooded during the three recent floods gives the following interesting figures:

1938	-	147	premises;
1949	-	136	"
1953	-	400	"

In 1953, the flooded premises were at.

Central Parade,	Sea View Square,
Mortimer Street,	Dolphin Street,
High Street,	Telford Street,
Richmond Street,	Station Road,
King's Road,	Chrysler Avenue,
Beach Street,	Talbot Avenue,
Hanover Street,	Swalecliffe Avenue,
Brunswick Square,	Hampton Pier Avenue,
Market Street,	Singer Avenue,
	Reculver.

Eight of the affected houses were unfit for further occupation, and most of the tenants were re-housed by the Council.

Flood Relief Fund.

Within a few days of the flood, the Chairman of the Council (Councillor T. S. Pettman) launched a local fund with

a most generous contribution. This local fund was well supported, but would have been totally inadequate to deal with the immense problems brought about by the flood. The Lord Mayor of London then organized a National Fund, which has been the salvation of flood victims at Herne Bay and elsewhere.

In previous floods, with assistance available only from the local fund, it was not possible to assist with repair of flood damaged properties but only to help occupiers of flooded houses with relatively small cash grants. The Lord Mayor's Fund has made grants through the Local Committee which amounted to approximately £100,000 by the end of 1953. The grants made were for repair of flood damaged properties, and the repair and replacement of damaged homes, business stock and equipment not covered by insurance. It is likely that when the remaining claims are settled, the total grants by the Fund will approach £120,000.

In addition, flood victims received gifts of bedding, furniture and furnishings through the W.V.S. and British Red Cross Society, who also made several distributions of gift food from overseas.

24 standards of timber was received as a gift from Canada to repair damaged properties. In fact, the spontaneous, generous assistance from unknown people in Britain and elsewhere has been a heart warming experience. As a result of this generosity, it has been possible for the Local Flood Relief Committee to aim at full restoration of flood damaged properties and their contents.

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